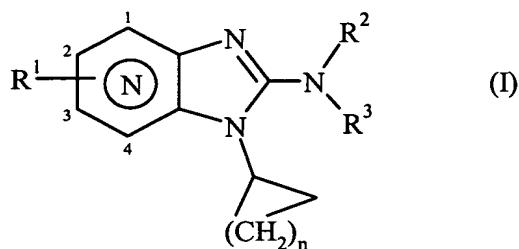




LISTING OF CLAIMS

CLAIMS 1-15 (canceled)

16- (currently amended) A compound of formula (I):



5

wherein:

• R¹ represents hydrogen, halogen, alkyl, polyhaloalkyl, cyano, nitro, hydroxycarbonyl, alkoxy carbonyl, aminocarbonyl, alkylaminocarbonyl or dialkylaminocarbonyl,

10 • R² represents hydrogen, alkyl, optionally substituted aryl, optionally substituted heteroaryl, or R²⁰—C(X)— wherein :

➤ R²⁰ represents alkyl, alkoxy, amino, alkylamino, dialkylamino, optionally substituted aryl or optionally substituted heteroaryl,

➤ X represents oxygen, sulphur, or NR²¹ wherein R²¹ represents hydrogen or alkyl,

• R³ represents hydrogen or alkyl,

15 • n represents an integer from 1 to 6 inclusive,

• the representation R¹ means: R¹ , R¹ , R¹ or R¹ ,

its enantiomers, diastereoisomers and addition salts thereof with a pharmaceutically acceptable acid or base,

it being understood that:

20 - the term "alkyl" denotes linear or branched hydrocarbon chain having from 1 to 6 carbon

atoms,

- the term "alkoxy" denotes an alkyl-oxy in which the alkyl chain, which is linear or branched, has from 1 to 6 carbon atoms,

- the term "aryl" denotes phenyl or biphenyl,

5 - the term "polyhaloalkyl" denotes a linear or branched carbon chain having from 1 to 3 carbon atoms and from 1 to 7 halogen atoms,

- the term "heteroaryl" denotes a group having from 5 to 11 ring members which is monocyclic or bicyclic, in which at least one of the rings is aromatic, and which contains in the monocyclic ring system or in the bicyclic ring system 1, 2 or 3 hetero atoms selected from nitrogen, oxygen and sulphur, and

10 - the expression "optionally substituted" associated with the expressions aryl and heteroaryl means that the groups in question ~~are~~ may be substituted by one or two identical or different substituents selected from halogen, alkyl, alkoxy, polyhaloalkyl, hydroxy, cyano, nitro, amino (optionally substituted by one or two alkyl groups) and $-C(O)R_d$ wherein R_d represents a group selected from hydroxy, alkoxy and amino, ~~it being understood that and wherein~~ the heteroaryl may also be substituted by an oxo moiety on the non-aromatic moiety of the heteroaryl.

17- (previously presented) A compound of Claim 16, wherein the representation



20 18- (previously presented) A compound of Claim 16, wherein R^1 represents hydrogen.

19- (previously presented) A compound of Claim 16, wherein R^2 represents hydrogen.

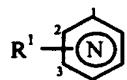
20- (previously presented) A compound of Claim 16, wherein R^2 represents a group $R^{20}-C(O)-$.

21- (previously presented) A compound of Claim 16, wherein R^3 represents hydrogen.

25 22- (previously presented) A compound of Claim 16, wherein R^{20} represents alkoxy.

23- (previously presented) A compound of Claim 16, wherein n represents an integer from 4 to 6 inclusive.

24- (previously presented) A compound of Claim 16, wherein



represents $R^1 - \text{C}(=\text{O}) - \text{C}_6\text{H}_3\text{N}$, R^1 represents hydrogen, R^2 represents hydrogen or a group 5 $R^{20}-\text{C}(\text{O})-$, wherein R^{20} represents alkoxy, and n is 4 or 5.

25- (previously presented) A compound of Claim 16, which is 3-cycloheptyl-3*H*-imidazo[4,5-*b*]pyridine-2-amine.

26- (previously presented) A compound of Claim 16, which is 3-cyclooctyl-3*H*-imidazo[4,5-*b*]pyridine-2-amine.

10 27- (previously presented) A pharmaceutical composition useful as an AMPK activator, comprising as active principle and effective amount of a compound as claimed in Claim 16, together with one or more inert, non-toxic, pharmaceutically acceptable excipients or vehicles.

15 28- (currently amended) A method for treating a living animal body, ~~including a human~~, afflicted with a condition selected from non-insulin-dependent, type II diabetes, obesity, type I diabetes, hyperlipidaemia, hypercholesterolaemia and their cardiovascular complications, comprising the step of administering to the living animal body, ~~including a human~~, an amount of a compound of Claim 16, which is effective for alleviation of the condition.

20 29- (currently amended) A method for treating a living animal body, ~~including a human~~, afflicted with a condition selected from type I and II diabetes and their cardiovascular complications, comprising the step of administering to the living animal body, ~~including a human~~, an amount of a compound of Claim 16, which is effective for alleviation of the condition.

25 30- (currently amended) A method for treating a living animal body, ~~including a human~~,

afflicted with a condition selected from type I and II diabetes, comprising the step of administering to the living animal body, ~~including a human~~, an amount of a compound of Claim 16, which is effective for alleviation of the condition.

5 **31**- (new) A method for treating a human afflicted with a condition selected from non-insulin-dependent, type II diabetes, obesity, type I diabetes, hyperlipidaemia, hypercholesterolaemia and their cardiovascular complications, comprising the step of administering to the human an amount of a compound of Claim 16, which is effective for alleviation of the condition.

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32- (new) A method for treating a human afflicted with a condition selected from type I and II diabetes and their cardiovascular complications, comprising the step of administering to the human an amount of a compound of Claim 16, which is effective for alleviation of the condition.

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33- (new) A method for treating a human afflicted with a condition selected from type I and II diabetes, comprising the step of administering to the human an amount of a compound of Claim 16, which is effective for alleviation of the condition.